THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Budgetary support for Public Sector Undertakings is detailed in Statement 9 and Statement 14 of Expenditure Budget, Volume-1 which is presented in both Houses of Parliament as part of Budget Documents.

(b) Public Sector Undertakings are mainly being provided interest fee subsidy, gurantee fee subsidy as detailed in Statement 5 and Statement 6 of Expenditure Budget, Volume-1. Non-Plan loans are also provided tosome Public Sector Undertakings to meet shortfall in their resources.

Pending applications for allotment of PAN

2717. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are large number of applications pending for allotment of PAN in the Income Tax Department all over the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such pending applications; and

(c) how Government propose to structure the working of I.T. Department in issuing the PAN to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. A total of 2.84 crore applications for allotment of Permanent Account Number have been received out of which 12.4 lakh applications were defective. Out of the balance 2.72 crore valid applications, PAN has been allotted in 2.69 crore cases. The pendency of 3 lakh applications is only around 1 percent of the total applications.

(b) In view of reply to part (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) It is proposed to outsource the work relating to allotment of PAN and issue of PAN cards to M/s. UTI Investor Services Ltd. (UTIISL) for better taxpayer service and to relieve Income Tax

Department from non-core functions so that it can concentrate on its core functions of assessments, investigation and tax collection.

More funds for Planning Commission

2718. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently directed the Finance Ministry to provide more money for the Planning Commission as gross budgetary support for plan schemes in 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the money has been released; and

(d) if so, whether the same has allocated to various plan schemes and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in central subsidies

2719. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recommended phasing out of non-merit subsidies worth over Rs. 1,30,000 crores which have increased from a negative 1.04 per cent during 1991-95 to 19.38 during 1995-2000;

(b) if so, why this alarming fiscal situation has arisen, which are the sectors where subsidies have been increased and why; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to adopt to tackle this situations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Explicit Central Government subsidies increased from Rs. 9133 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 44618 crore in 2002-03. These subsidies on an average accounted for 1.4% of the